Criteria for Determining Poverty Line

881. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for declaring families living below the poverty line;

(b) when the criteria was laid down last and whether there is any proposal to revise the criteria;

(c) the number of families living below the poverty line in Punjab, district-wise; and

(d) the various schemes started in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Identification of a family living below the poverty line is done by the concerned State Government. The criteria to declare a family living below the poverty line are based on the below poverty line (BPL) census conducted at the beginning of the Five Year Plan. The BPL Census is conducted at two stages. First, on the basis of certain exclusion criteria some families are excluded. The exclusion criteria is if the family operates more than two hectares of land, has a pucca house, if any resident member of the family has annual income from salary/self-employment exceeding Rs. 20,000 per annum (Rs. 1,700 per month), or if the family possesses a Television set, Refrigerator, Ceiling Fan, Motor Cycle/Scooter, Three-Wheeler, or if the family owns a Tractor, Power Tiller, Combined Thresher/Harvester, then the family is excluded from the BPL group.

Among the remaining families, the total consumption, both purchased from the market and home grown, are divided by the total number of persons in the family. If this amount falls below the

poverty line expenditure which is worked out at state level using the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee), then the family is considered to be declared in the poor group (BPL).

(b) In the beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002.

(c) The number has not yet been finalised by the State Government.

(d) Since the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85), the Government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self-employment and wage employment. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage employment programme initially was National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixh Plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programme under the name Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced. Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme, and it became the main wage-employment programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programmes are Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Area (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, IRDP and allied programmes, alongwith Million Wells Scheme have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has also been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village

infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objetive is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. Employment Assurance Scheme has also been strengthened from 1.4.1999 as single wage employment programme. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic services for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

Employment Contribution of small and Cottage Industries

†882. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the employment contribution of Small and Cottage Industries in the total employment available in industry;

(b) whether Government are considering to promote small and cottage industries to increase the employment opportunities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Small Scale and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.